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Allegheny Power President says that reliable electric service will continue

Greensburg, Pa., September 20, 2000 – Allegheny Power President Jay S. Pifer, in testimony today before the House Consumer Affairs Committee in Bethlehem, Pa., assured government officials that Pennsylvania’s competitive electricity market will not adversely affect the reliability of electric service in the utility’s service area.

“Pennsylvania’s Electricity Generation Customer Choice and Competition Act is the national model of successful implementation of electric restructuring,” said Pifer. This summer other parts of the nation, specifically California, experienced reliability problems, and Pennsylvania lawmakers want to ensure these problems do not occur in the Commonwealth. According to Pifer, the controversy surrounding the competitive electricity market in California will not reach Pennsylvania because there is enough electric generating capacity installed or under development to meet customer needs.

In his testimony, Pifer also outlined the established procedures taken by the utility to protect customer service when extreme weather conditions or a sudden loss of generation affects the power supply. He also described major changes made by Allegheny Power to ensure service reliability, including investing more than \$38 million in technology to meet customer needs. “Allegheny Power is prepared and equipped to deal with emergency situations and continuously searches for ways to reduce the severity of power interruptions caused by storms and natural disasters,” said Pifer.

“For the second consecutive year, Allegheny Power ranked second in the eastern United States in a national customer satisfaction survey, a clear indication that we are delivering on our promise to provide reliable electric service to our customers,” said Pifer.

Allegheny Power, an Allegheny Energy company, delivers low-cost electric energy and natural gas to three million people in parts of Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. For more information, visit the company’s web site at www.alleghenypower.com.

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